

At page 15, lines 11-20, please replace the paragraph with the following:

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An alternative design of a laser pyrolysis apparatus has been described. See, copending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application No. 08/808,850, now U.S. Patent 5,958,348, entitled "Efficient Production of Particles by Chemical Reaction," incorporated herein by reference. This alternative design is intended to facilitate production of commercial quantities of particles by laser pyrolysis. A variety of configurations are described for injecting the reactant materials into the reaction chamber.

At page 18, lines 1-17, please replace the paragraph with the following:

b3

Because of their small size, the primary particles tend to form loose agglomerates due to van der Waals and other electromagnetic forces between nearby particles. Nevertheless, the nanometer scale of the primary particles is clearly observable in transmission electron micrographs of the particles. The particles generally have a surface area corresponding to particles on a nanometer scale as observed in the micrographs. Furthermore, the particles can manifest unique properties due to their small size and large surface area per weight of material. For example, TiO₂ nanoparticles generally exhibit altered electromagnetic absorption properties based on their small size, as described in copending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/962,515, now U.S. Patent 6,099,798, entitled "Ultraviolet Light Block and Photocatalytic Materials," incorporated herein by reference.

At page 21, lines 17-31, please replace the paragraph with the following: